



NEWS

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Siding Contractor Charged with Felony Theft of Sales Tax

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 25, 2005 — The owners of a Kirkland home-siding contracting business were charged Monday with filing false state tax returns and stealing nearly \$65,000 in sales tax collected from 2001 through 2003.

The Criminal Justice Division of the state Attorney General's Office filed felony charges against Jorge Tapia and Robin L. Luther-Tapia, owners of Accurate Siding Inc. The charges were brought in King County Superior Court at the request of the Washington State Department of Revenue.

Jorge Tapia has used numerous aliases, including Pablo A. Suarez and Rubin Vedia Calizaya, according to the charging papers.

The company collected more than \$169,000 in Washington State sales tax from its customers between the fourth quarter of 2001 and September 2003, but more than \$64,800 of it allegedly was not remitted to the Department of Revenue. The Department revoked the company's business license in September 2004 after the company repeatedly failed to file delinquent combined excise tax returns, pay delinquent taxes, or respond to agency inquiries following an audit of the business.

In early 2004, Tapia, using the name Rubin Vedia Calizaya, began operating a second siding business, initially known as Accurate Exterior Improvements LLC and later changed to Accurate Exterior Systems LLC, according to the charging papers. That business continues to operate.

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